

3. Davis Gibboney Enyeart, He Served with His Whole Heart

Davis Gibboney Enyeart was born on Aug. 31, 1837 near Marklesburg in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. His parents were Thomas and Mary Wilson Glasgow Enyeart. Davis was Thomas and Mary's first son and he joined two year old Matilda and one year old Margaret in the growing Enyeart family. There would eventually be ten children but two died in infancy. Davis was named for Davis Gibboney whom his maternal grandmother, Mary Wilson Glasgow, had married two years earlier.¹ Thomas was a farmer and Davis likely grew up helping on the farm.

Davis received his education in the common schools and at the Cassville Seminary in Cassville, PA about ten miles southeast of Marklesburg. The school was under the supervision of the Methodist Church. The first classes were held in 1852 and a dormitory for boarding students was added in 1854. It continued to operate after the



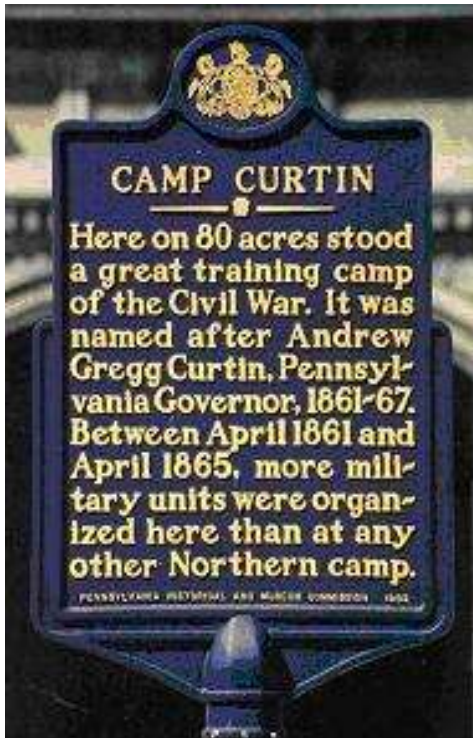
(From [Milton Scott Lytle](#), History of Huntingdon County)

beginning of the civil war. The school gained considerable popularity and patronage, having at various times as many as a hundred and twenty-five students. Davis's father died in June 1854 when Davis was 16 years old but it is not known if Davis was attending Cassville Seminary before or after this. Sometime in the 1850's (presumably after graduating from Cassville Seminary) Davis became a school teacher. In the latter part of the 1850's, Davis lived in Nodaway County, Missouri for a year and a half and worked as a clerk in a general store. His connection to that area of northwestern Missouri is not known but there were people by the name of Enyeart and Glasgow in the region at that time so there may have been some family connection. By the summer of 1860, Davis was living in Penn Township, Huntingdon County, working as a teacher and as a laborer when school was not in session.

¹ Davis's middle name is widely reported in genealogical references as "Glasgow". However, family records indicate his middle name was Gibboney and the VA pension records also included Gibboney as his middle name. His maternal grandfather was Samuel Glasgow. It is possible that at one time someone was told that Davis was named for his "grandfather" and recorded the name Glasgow, not knowing he was actually named after his step-grandfather, Davis Gibboney. The mistake has been perpetuated as genealogists faithfully quote the erroneous source.



Davis Gibboney Enyeart



healthy. Davis lost his brother, James, to typhoid fever on December 24. On January

Like many of the local young men, including his younger brother, James, discussed earlier, Davis joined the Union Army in September 1861. He was mustered into Company C of the 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry on October 17, 1861 at Camp Curtin in Harrisburg, PA. Davis was a slender six-footer with a fair complexion, blue eyes and black hair. Perhaps it was because he was better educated than many of the other volunteers or because he was older than many of them, having reached the age of 24 a couple weeks before he signed on, or maybe he possessed advance leadership skills; but, for whatever reason, he was appointed sergeant in the new company. Almost immediately upon his arrival at Camp Curtin, Davis became ill; contracting what was described as “lung fever”. Respiratory infections and heart problems would trouble him for his whole military career, in fact, for the rest of this life.

The 53rd PVI left Camp Curtin on November 7 and travelled by train to Washington D.C. by way of Baltimore. They camped about a mile north of the U.S. Capital in a place called Camp Brooke until November 27th and then crossed the Potomac to Camp California, near Alexandria, Virginia, which would be their home through most of the winter. Here, the regiment was assigned to the brigade commanded by General William. H. French, General William Sumner's Division, of the newly organized Army of the Potomac. The unit settled into a routine of rigorous training under the command of General French. The conditions were cold, damp, muddy, uncomfortable and un-

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1, 1862, Davis was admitted to the regimental hospital at Camp California with "disease of the lungs and respiratory 'affection'". Apparently, he continued to suffer with his ailments at the camp until March 5 when he was transferred to Douglas Hospital in Washington D.C.; chronic diarrhea had been added to his list of symptoms.

Douglas Hospital was formed in January 1862 and was located on "Minnesota Row" at the corner of New Jersey Avenue and I Street, extending back to 2nd and K

Streets, NW, and was made up of the mansions of Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois, Vice President John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky and Senator Henry M. Rice of Minnesota. The Roman Catholic Sisters of Mercy served as nurses there. It is ironic that the hospital was formed by joining together the former homes of Douglas and Breckinridge. These two failed presidential candidates had split the Democratic Party into northern and southern factions in 1860, thus assuring Lincoln's election and the war's commencement. The election of 1860 is discussed in more detail in Chapter 4.

In March 1862, the regiment was ordered to Manassas Junction, VA in the general advance of the Army of the Potomac under Irwin McDowell. The area had been evacuated by Confederate forces. On March 21, Brooke's command supported General O.O. Howard's brigade in its reconnaissance to Warrenton Junction and beyond to the Rappahannock River. The regiment remained near the junction until ordered to return to Manassas on March 23. From there, they returned to Alexandria.



THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC—BURYING THE DEAD, AND BURNING DEAD HORSES AT FAIROAKS STATION, VIRGINIA.—SKETCHED BY MR. A. R. WAUD, Harper's Weekly, July 19, 1862,

The Army was reorganized that spring and French's brigade was designated as the Third Brigade in the First Division, Second Corps. General Sumner was moved up to corps command and the division command transferred to General Israel Richardson. The brigade was ordered to the Virginia Peninsula in April and participated in the siege of Yorktown from April 5 to May 4, 1862 and remained on duty at Yorktown until June 12. They constructed the Grape Vine Bridge over the Chickahominy River from May 28 to May 30. They fought in the Battle of Fair Oaks, also known as Seven Pines, from May 31 to June 1. Although there was no clear winner, this was the largest battle in the eastern theater up until that time, second only to the Battle of Shiloh, in terms of casualties.

Davis did not participate in these campaigns; he remained hospitalized in Washington, DC until he was released in early June and returned to his unit.

The Fifty-third bivouacked on the battlefield that night and in the following days and supported a Union battery on the York River Railroad. On June 27, Confederate forces under "Stonewall" Jackson attacked the northern flank of the army near Gaines' Mill. Union forces came under fire of Confederate artillery and infantry. Forming in line of battle, the Fifty-third covered the Union withdrawal and at midnight silently re-crossed the Chickahominy. As narrated by Samuel Bates in his *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861 - 1865*,

"Here began the memorable 'change of base,' in which it was the arduous duty of Sumner's Corps to cover the rear of the retreating army. The post of honor and of danger - the rear of the rear-guard - was assigned



Grape Vine Bridge Chickahominy River, Virginia
(Library of Congress)

to the Third Brigade. At the battle of Peach Orchard (near Savage's Station) on the 29th, the Fifty-third participated in a fierce engagement where casualties occurred, but none was killed. Immediately after the close of the action, General Sumner rode up and complimented the regiment for its bravery, saying, 'You have done nobly, but I knew you would do so.'"

"The Confederate pursuit that caught up with Sumner's Corps near Savage's

Station on June 29th resulted in a pitched battle necessary to protect Union supplies and wounded near the railroad station. The Fifty-third occupied a position in a wood parallel to the railroad, unfortunately favored by the high ranged shot and shell of the rebel artillery, and traded several volleys with Confederates of Magruder's command. After a short but desperate encounter, the enemy withdrew and at midnight the line of retreat was silently resumed, leaving behind 2,500 sick and wounded Union soldiers to the mercy of the Confederates. French's brigade acted as rear guard for the corps as it withdrew the field that night, the route lit by burning wagons and bonfires. The brigade, "standing fearlessly alone in midnight darkness was holding in check almost at the point of the bayonet, one-half the rebel army, while friends from whom no succor could be expected were swiftly moving to the rear" through the dismal White Oak Swamp. At daylight the regiment reached White Oak Creek, beyond the corps had concentrated. After crossing the creek, the Fifty-third immediately began destroying the bridge when Confederate skirmishers made an appearance and opened fire on the Pennsylvanians and New Yorkers as they set fire to the structure. A number of Confederate batteries opened fire on the Union lines, though did little damage. Although not seriously engaged, the regiment lost several men wounded. The Fifty-third withdrew the battlefield with its brigade soon after midnight and marched to Malvern Hill, arriving on the morning of July 1. Though constantly under artillery fire throughout the engagement that day, no further loses were inflicted on the regiment."²

The Fifty-third received orders to move from the Chickahominy River to the James River. They camped near Harrison's Landing on the James River in Virginia until the 16th of August. Apparently, Davis was with his unit after his release from the hospital in early June and likely participated in the campaign to the extent his health would allow until he was admitted to the regimental hospital with a fever on July 9. He was released on July 10 but was back the next day with diarrhea and remained hospitalized until July 15. Once again, on July 26, Davis was admitted for three days with a recurrence of diarrhea. Records indicate that the respiratory problems from which Davis suffered continued throughout the time he was in the army. It isn't hard to envision the discomfort Davis must have endured with the combination of his ailments.

² "Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Civil War, 53rd Volunteer Regiment,"



THE ENCAMPMENT OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC AT HARRISON'S LANDING
—SKETCHED BY MR. A. R. WAUD, Harpers Weekly, August 23, 1862,

The July 19, 1862 edition of Harper Weekly includes a description of the camp at Harrison's landing. It concludes the article with the following description of the medical facilities:

The large Berkeley mansion, and the two smaller houses adjoining, as well as several Negro huts in the vicinity, are all occupied as hospitals. The family—named Stark—I believe, have not been here since last March, and are now in Richmond. They removed most of their portable personal effects in April and May, but left in the house all of their rich carpets, elegant furniture, etc. The rain has poured down in torrents all day today; the grounds around the house are one mass of mud, and in two hours after the house was opened the rich carpets in every room were covered with a thick layer of the sacred soil, which, being tramped and grimed into them, has completely ruined them. Upon these once elegant but now muddy carpets our wounded officers and soldiers are now lying closely crowded together. Two of the rooms downstairs are used for amputations, and in this department of surgery the surgeons have been busy all day. For the want of space the sick and those slightly wounded are made to go outside the house, there not being room enough inside for the severely wounded alone. There are a great number of steamers and sailing vessels out in the stream, which are being fitted up to receive these sick and wounded men,

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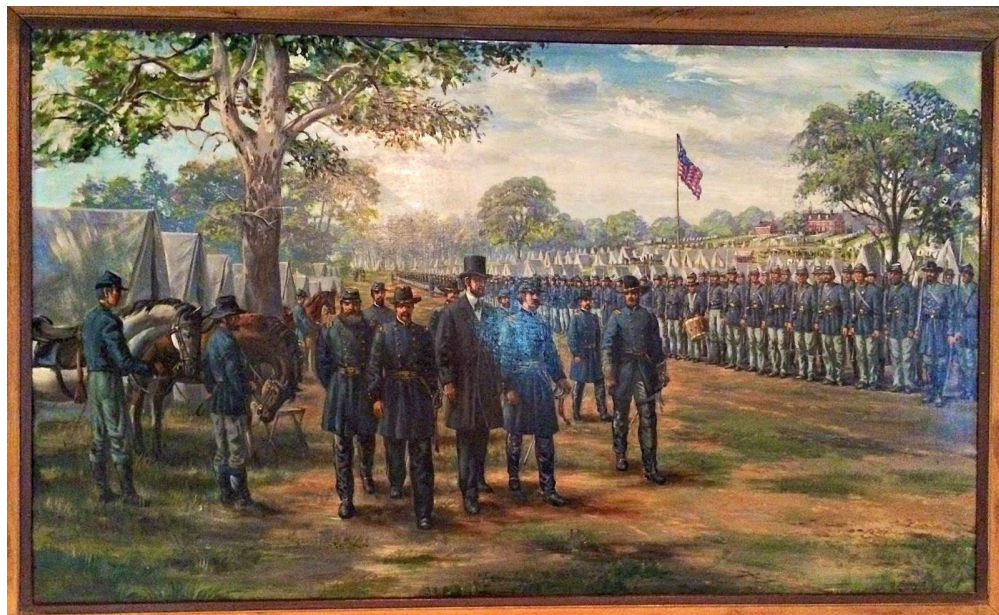
and in a day or two they will all be removed to comfortable quarters.

President Lincoln visited General McClellan at Harrison's landing and reviewed the troops on July 8, 1862. Davis probably was among the soldiers who saw the president as he rode by the troops, although it is possible, he was already suffering from the malady for which he was hospitalized the next day and was therefore maintaining guard duty at the latrine rather than joining the review.



The Berkeley Plantation mansion at Harrison's Landing was built in 1726. It was the birthplace of President William Harrison. It was used as a hospital during the Civil War.

(John Banks Civil War Blog)



Lincoln reviews Union troops in July 1862 in this painting, part of a Civil War display in the basement of the Berkeley Plantation mansion. The mansion appears in the far-right background of the painting. (John Banks Civil War Blog)

On August 16, 1862 the regiment left Harrison's Landing for Alexandria by way of Yorktown and Newport News and arrived on the 28th. They camped the next day at Lee's farm near the Aqueduct Bridge where they could hear the cannons from the battle at Bull Run in the distance. At two AM on the 30th, they moved toward Centreville but the

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battle was over and the Union forces, under General John Pope, were retreating to the defenses of Washington. Upon reaching Centreville, the Fifty-third was deployed to protect the exposed flanks of the Union army. Sumner's corps now found itself between the enemy and the retreating troops. Near Vienna, the regiment and one section of a battery were thrown forward on the Leesburg turnpike to guard the flank of the column against any sudden attack of the enemy. A force of rebel cavalry made a dash upon the Union troops between the pike and Chain Bridge, entirely separating the regiment from the main column. Colonel Brooke, seeing the danger, hastily moved his command down the pike, ensuring its safety before the enemy discovered the maneuver.

Robert E. Lee's army was now marching into Maryland. The Third Brigade moved through Washington to Frederick and then to South Mountain where it was held in reserve. It would not be long until they would be engaged in the bloodiest day of battle in US history, the Battle of Antietam.

On the 15th it moved in pursuit, skirmishing during the morning with the enemy's cavalry, drove him through Boonesboro' and Keedysville and encountered his army in strong force on the highlands beyond Antietam Creek. The following day was occupied chiefly in maneuvering for position, the regiment being under artillery fire and suffering some casualties. At four A.M. of the 17th, the regiment left its position on the Keedysville road and moving a mile to the right crossed Antietam Creek at a ford. It occupied the extreme right of the division. In front was the "sunken road" occupied by the enemy's first line. His second line was protected by a stone wall on the hill beyond. To the right and rear was an orchard, immediately in front of which was the cornfield where subsequently the battle raged with great fury. It was important to drive the enemy from this position and the Fifty-third was chosen for the charge. Changing front to the rear and advancing at double-quick, in a short but desperate contest it drove him from his well-chosen ground. The regiment was



"The Sunken Road" at Antietam
Jim Gresham, Aug. 2, 2011

*subsequently engaged in the hottest of the fight and shared the varying fortunes of the day. The position gained was of great importance and was held with tenacity until the regiment was ordered to the support of a battery. Lieutenant Weaver of company K, a brave young officer, was mortally wounded. The loss in killed and wounded was twenty-eight.*³

On the 22nd of September, General Sumner's corps, including the Fifty-third traveled south, forded the Potomac at Harper's Ferry and set up camp the next day on Bolivar Heights. The troops rested and recovered from a very rough two months of war. They were provided full rations and clothing which were much needed.

On October 1, President Lincoln traveled the 67 miles from Washington to Harper's Ferry by train as he felt compelled to "slip away and see my soldiers." He arrived about noon and took an ambulance to Bolivar Heights to meet with General Sumner. General McClellan arrived a short time later and invited Lincoln to visit Antietam. Lincoln refused and then proceeded to review the troops at Bolivar Heights. Lincoln did go to Antietam the next day and met with McClellan and other generals and reviewed the troops. This several-day visit is well known and was a turning point for the war and for General McClellan's career. A short time later, Lincoln, disappointed in McClellan's slow action against the Confederates, replaced McClellan and appointed General Ambrose Burnside as the commander of the Army of the Potomac. Burnside assumed command on November 9, 1862.

Lincoln visited the troops often and his visits were always a morale booster. His concern for and connection with the soldiers were evident in these visits to the battlefields and camps as well as his frequent visits to the hospitals in and around Washington. Davis Enyeart and the 53rd PVI were in camp for this early October visit by the Commander-in-Chief.

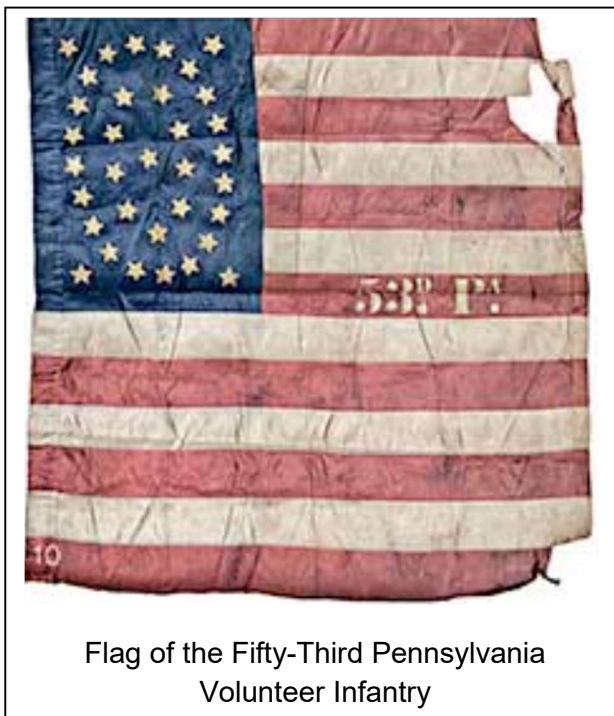
Records indicate that Davis was present with his unit throughout September and October and presumably was able to participate in the battles. However, he never did recover from the respiratory problems that began in the fall of 1861 and kept him separated from his unit until June of 1862. It would not be surprising if his participation in the campaign was restricted in some way. However, there is no indication in the military records nor in later interviews with his comrades that Davis failed to do all he could do to support the cause.

³ History of the 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Ohio State University History Department

From the Ohio State History Department summary of the 53rd PVI:

On the 16th of October 1862, [the 53rd PVI] participated under command of Major Bull in a reconnaissance to Charlestown, skirmishing with and driving the enemy, it occupied the town. Captain Mintzer, of company A, was appointed Provost Marshal of the place who at once instituted a search and captured a number of prisoners. The object of the reconnaissance having been accomplished, the command returned to camp. Moving from Bolivar Heights on the 30th of October, it crossed the Shenandoah River and proceeded down the Loudon Valley, participating in a skirmish with the enemy on the 4th of November at Snicker's Gap, driving him out and occupying it until the column had passed. It arrived at Warrenton on the 9th when General Burnside assumed command of the Army of the Potomac and projected the movement upon Fredericksburg. The regiment proceeded to Falmouth where it arrived on the 19th and performed provost guard duty until the 11th of December, when it left quarters and took position nearly opposite Fredericksburg in support of the batteries that were engaged in bombarding the town.

Early on the 12th it crossed the river and forming a skirmish line drove the enemy's sharpshooters out of the city with the loss of one mortally wounded, when it was relieved and rested for the night on the river bank. Early on the morning of Saturday the 13th, under a dense fog the regiment marched into the city and halted for an hour under fire of rebel artillery. The fight was opened at the front near Marye's Heights by French's Division, which was repulsed. Soon after, the Third Brigade led by the Fifty-second moved, amidst a shower of deadly missiles by the right flank, up St. Charles Street and formed in line of battle along the edge of the town. The rebel infantry, but a few hundred yards in front, was protected by a stone wall along a sunken



Flag of the Fifty-Third Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry

road while immediately above, the hilltops were bristling with cannon. At the word of command, Colonel Brooke at the head of his regiment led the charge under a storm of shot and shell that swept the ranks with terrible effect. But undismayed they closed up and pressed steadily on till they reached a position within one hundred and fifty yards of the enemy's lines which was held, despite every effort to dislodge them, even after their ammunition was spent. At evening, when the battle was over and the day was lost, what remained of the regiment retired silently from its position and returned to the city. It went into battle with two hundred and eighty-three effective men. Of these, one hundred and fifty-eight were either killed or wounded.

The regiment now returned to its old position as provost guard to Falmouth. On the following week it formed part of a detachment under command of Colonel Brooke that crossed the river, under a flag of truce, for the purpose of burying the dead. During the two days occupied in this work, nine hundred and thirteen were interred and six were dispatched to their friends. The rebel soldiers had stripped the bodies of the dead in the most heartless manner. In many cases fingers were cut off to get possession of rings. The Fifty-third remained at Falmouth until February 1st, 1863.⁴

At some point during the late autumn of 1862, Davis fell ill again and never was able to return to his unit. It is unlikely that he participated in the Battle of Fredericksburg. The precise timing of his sickness is not known but it was sometime in November or early December.



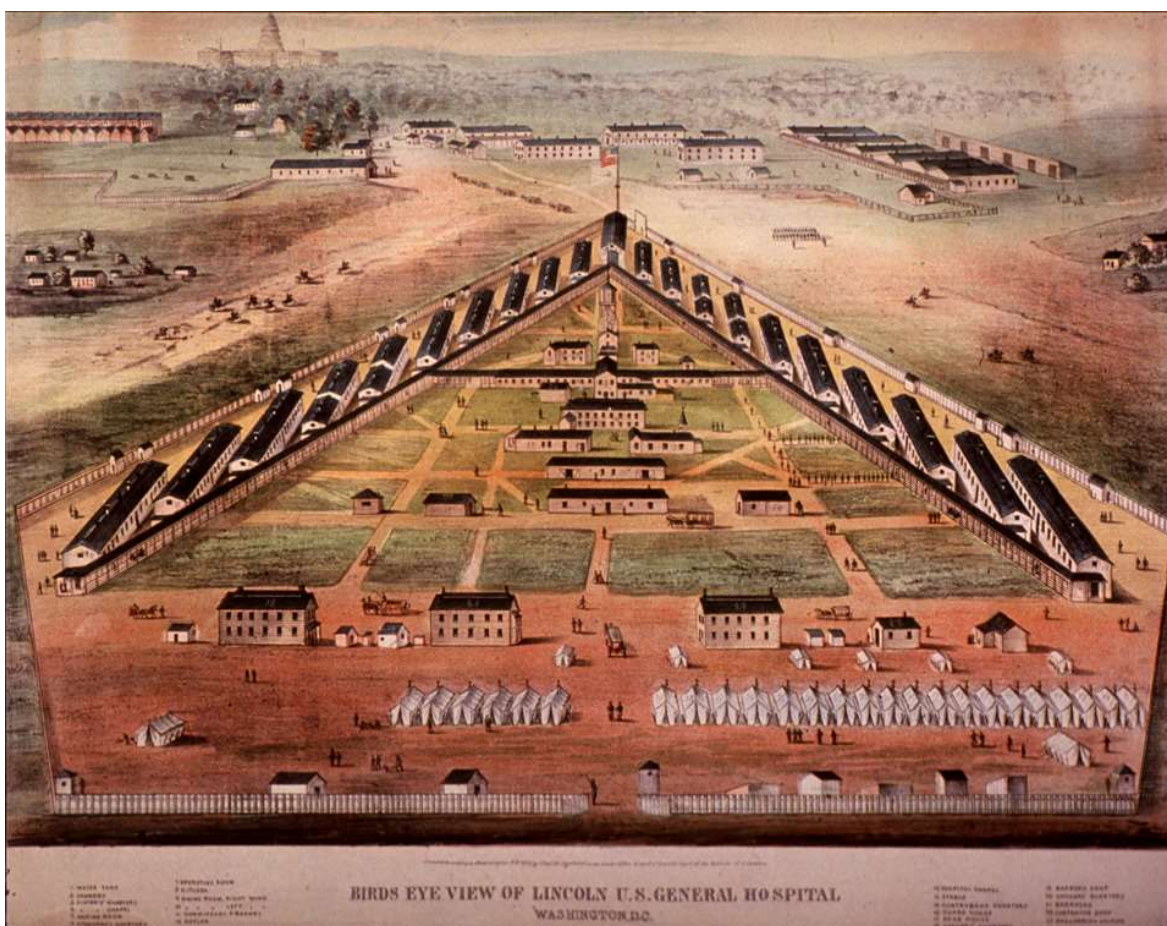
Aquia Creek Landing in February 1863.

Davis, along with others was transferred from Falmouth to Washington. The journey from Falmouth to Washington began on December 28 and was made in two parts: first by rail to Aquia Creek Landing, Virginia, and then by government steamer up the Potomac River to the landing at Seventh Street, S.W. Coincidentally, Davis and the other sick and wounded were accompanied by the poet, Walt Whitman who was famous for his poetry as well as his care for the sick and wounded in the Washington hospitals during the war.

Whitman had traveled to the camp at Falmouth two weeks earlier, having received

⁴ History of the 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Ohio State University History Department

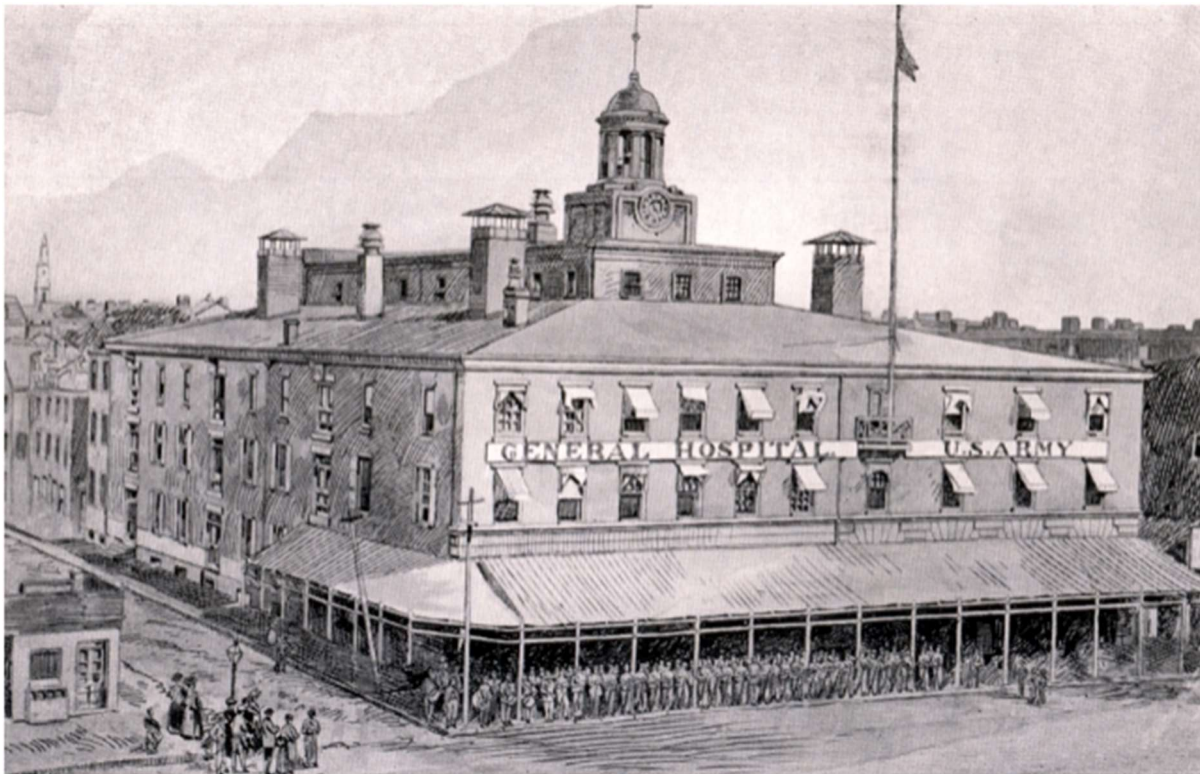
word in New York that his brother George was wounded in the battle of Fredericksburg. He found his brother at Falmouth healthy and unharmed but Walt remained at the camp treating and helping the wounded. He agreed to help transfer patients to Washington. Once in Washington, Whitman visited the patients he had helped transfer and met other sick and wounded. He remained in Washington, ministering to the needs of the hospitalized soldiers and writing articles about his experiences.



Davis was admitted to Lincoln Hospital on December 29, 1862. Although Davis was probably not impressed with this distinction, he was among the first patients at this new facility. Lincoln General Hospital was one of the largest hospitals built by the Army. It was located on Capitol Hill, 15 blocks east of the Capitol building at East Capitol and 15th Street. The hospital complex included 20 pavilions, arranged in two lines forming a “V”, and 25 tent wards, which provided altogether a bed capacity of 2,575. The kitchen and dining rooms were connected to the pavilions by means of a covered pathway. In addition to the headquarters (marked by the flag in the picture), there were officers’ quarters, quarters for Sisters who provided nursing service, barracks, guard house, separate quarters for contrabands, and service facilities such as water

tank, laundry, barber shop, carpenter shop, stables and a morgue ("Dead House"). Lincoln General was taken down shortly after the Civil War.

Davis was at Lincoln Hospital until January 10, 1863 when he was transferred to Broad Street Hospital in Philadelphia. The Broad Street Hospital was opened February 2, 1862, in the old station building of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company and could accommodate 525 patients. Branches of this hospital were afterward established in the old market house on Broad Street below Race Street and on Cherry Street east of Broad Street. The ladies actively interested in this hospital were from the many prominent families then resident nearby. This hospital was closed when the Mower Hospital was completed in January 1863 but was reopened for a short time after the battle of Gettysburg.

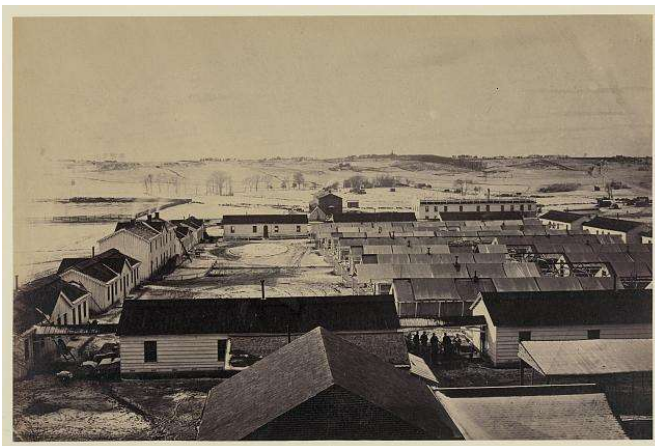


Broad Street Hospital, Philadelphia

Davis must have been among the last patients at this hospital before its temporary closure. The reason for his transfer is unknown; the symptoms listed were the same as when he entered Lincoln Hospital, acute bronchitis. The medical experts must have thought there was some advantage to treating him in Philadelphia that made it worth the risk of travel. The distance by rail from Washington to Philadelphia is 138 miles. Trains averaged a speed of about 25 miles per hour at that time so the trip would have taken at least five or six hours plus the time for transit between the hospitals and the train stations.

This was not an easy trip in winter time, even for someone who was healthy.

He was released from the Broad Street Hospital on January 28 and some records indicate he returned to duty while others indicated he was unfit for duty from mid-December through February. Regardless of his whereabouts for the next two weeks, he was admitted to the Convalescent Camp in Virginia on February 11. It seems likely that he returned to one of the Washington Hospitals or to the camp hospital facility at Falmouth for this short time and then was transferred to the Convalescent Camp.



Camp Convalescent, Virginia (Library of Congress)

The convalescent camp, aptly named “Camp Convalescent” was located approximately four miles outside of Washington and was run by the U. S. Christian Commission in cooperation with the U. S. Sanitary Commission. The United States Sanitary Commission was a private relief agency created by federal legislation on June 18, 1861, to support sick and wounded soldiers of the U.S. Army during the Civil War. It operated across the North, raised an estimated \$25 million in Civil War era revenue and in-kind contributions to support the cause, and enlisted thousands of volunteers.



*Barracks, Camp Convalescent, near Alexandria.
National Archives photo*

The United States Christian Commission (USCC) was an organization that furnished supplies, medical services, and religious literature to Union troops during war. It combined religious support with social services and recreational

activities. It supplied Protestant chaplains and social workers and collaborated with the U.S. Sanitary Commission in providing medical services. The Christian Commission was created in response to what the troops suffered in the First Battle of Bull Run. On November 14, 1861, the National Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) called a convention which met in New York City where leaders outlined the work needed to support the soldiers and the design for the United States Christian Commission whose organization was completed the next day.

Conditions at the Camp Convalescent, nicknamed "Camp Misery," were poor. It was not unusual for soldiers to become sicker and even die from the "treatment" they received at the camp. One soldier who was there in August 1862 provided the following description of the conditions:

"...I have not seen a doctor in five days but I begin to think I get along better without him. We don't get any vegetables of any sort at all. From 3 to 4 dies here daily. We are in tents, five in each tent, no beds, has to lie on the hard ground, which is not a comfortable bed for sick folks...

"So long as a man is able to walk he has to do his own washing or else be eaten up with lice which is very plenty in camp, in fact, it is the plentiest thing we have. We don't get our cooking done not half the time for want of wood but who is to blame I am unable to say. But one thing I do know it is one of the meanest places I have come across...They need not talk of the misery of the rebels, let them come down here and it will open their eyes...We may get a little supper if the wood comes. If not we will have to go to bed supperless as usual."

Davis didn't have to endure the conditions at Camp Convalescent for too long. He was discharged from the camp – and the Union Army -- on February 21, 1863 by reason of the surgeon's declaration of disability. It had become obvious that Davis was not going to recover from heart and lung disease to the point that he would be able to return to duty with the Fifty-third Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. Davis returned home to Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, probably by train.

The Fifty-third remained at Falmouth until April. They participated in the Chancellorsville Campaign from April 27 to May 6, including the Battle of Chancellorsville May 1-5. This was followed by the Gettysburg Campaign beginning June 13. The bloodiest battle in the war, the Battle of Gettysburg, was fought July 1-3, 1863.

Although, Davis was no longer with his unit when they fought at Gettysburg, his name is included on the memorial which was dedicated September 27, 1910. It is the largest memorial at the Gettysburg battlefield. The monument is made from North Carolina granite set over an iron and concrete frame. Its base and the inside of the monument are lined with bronze tablets listing the Pennsylvania regiments and batteries and the names of over 23,400 Pennsylvanians who participated in the battle. There were more soldiers from Pennsylvania than any other state, North or South.

One of the Gettysburg Park rangers was surprised to learn that one of the names of the monument was someone who had been discharged months earlier. He said this was unusual and was not aware of any other such instance. It would be interesting to speculate if this was an honor afforded to Davis because of the regard his comrades had for him but there is probably no significance to this beyond inattention to detail when the monument was created.



The State of Pennsylvania Monument at Gettysburg⁵

⁵ Photos taken July 14, 2015



Monument to the 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry at Gettysburg⁶



The 53rd Pennsylvania Monument at Gettysburg

The monument to the 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteers is south of Gettysburg on Brooke Avenue (39.7951° N, 77.2470° W;

The monument consists of an 8' 7" tall statue of a fully equipped infantryman supported by a granite base. The soldier is wearing a greatcoat and carrying a knapsack, bedroll, canteen and cartridge box. He stands in a confident pose, bayoneted rifle at his side and thumb in his belt.

The square base is 9' 7" tall, for an overall height of a little over 18' for the monument. The base is inscribed on the front and sides and has a tablet of the state Coat of Arms on the front just above the base. The monument was dedicated by the State of Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 1889.

The regiment was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Richards McMichael, a carpenter from Reading who was a veteran of the Mexican War. It brought 15 officers and 120 enlisted

men to the field in seven companies. Companies A, B and K were detached as division provost guard.

From inscription on the monument:

53rd Pennsylvania Infantry, 4th Brigade, 1st Division, 2nd Corps.

July 2, about 5 p.m. the Regiment deployed with the Brigade on the northerly side of and charged through the Wheatfield, driving the enemy, and continuing the advance to this position, holding it until ordered to retire. July 3, in position with Division on left centre. Carried into action: 135 officers and men. Killed, men 7. Wounded, officers 11, men 56. Captured or missing, men 6. Total 80.

⁶ Monument pictures by Jim Gresham, September 22, 2011

Monument to the 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry at Gettysburg



Davis's comrades in the Fifty-third continued to fight the Union cause and participate in major battles through the rest of the war. The members of the unit re-enlisted in December 1863. Their final battle was Appomattox Court House, Virginia on the morning of April 9, 1865. The Union victory resulted in General Robert E. Lee's surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House that afternoon. The day was Palm Sunday.

On April 12, a formal ceremony marked the disbandment of the Army of Northern Virginia and the parole of its officers and men, effectively ending the war in Virginia. This event triggered a series of surrenders across the south, signaling the end of the war.

The Fifty-third joined in the march to Washington from May 2 through May 12, participated in the Grand Review on May 23 and was mustered out on June 30, 1865. During their service the lost five officers and 195 enlisted men in battle and one officer and 193 enlisted men to disease, a total of 394.



Grand Review, Washington D.C., May 23, 1865,
Photo by Matthew Brady, digitally re-mastered

While Davis's former comrades in the Fifty-third were continuing the fight in the battlefields of Virginia, Davis was preparing to reenter the conflict by way of an appointment by the governor to Company K of the 78th Pennsylvania regiment. Years later, Davis related that his two years of convalescence had left him feeling stronger and healthier and he felt as if he were able to again contribute to the union cause. He soon realized, upon resuming military life, that he was overly optimistic and it wasn't long until he knew that his physical condition would continue to plague him. His weak constitution surely made for difficult service in the next few months (although his unit did not engage in any battles.) Beyond that, it appears that his attempts to obtain a disability pension may have been hindered by his reenlistment as it appeared that his illness did not result in a disability because of his return to the army. His devotion and patriotism was rewarded by skepticism of bureaucrats and some loss in compensation.

The 78th Regiment of the Pennsylvania volunteer infantry was formed in October 1861 and its recruits signed on for a period of about three years. They fought in some major battles in the south during those three years. In late 1864 the unit was ordered to travel from Chattanooga to Pittsburgh by way of the Cumberland and Ohio Rivers. The Regiment was mustered out of the United States service at Kittanning by Lieutenant Ward of the U. S. Army on the 4th day of November, and was paid on the 5th of November. The soldiers and officers of the Regiment then returned to their respective homes.

The recruits whose time had not expired and veteran volunteers that decided to reenlist remained at Nashville under command of Major Bonnaffon. They were organized into two companies, and afterwards became companies A and B at the new organization of the Regiment. The small unit participated with the Army of the Cumberland in the Battle of Nashville on December 15 and 16, 1864 where the Union forces completely routed the



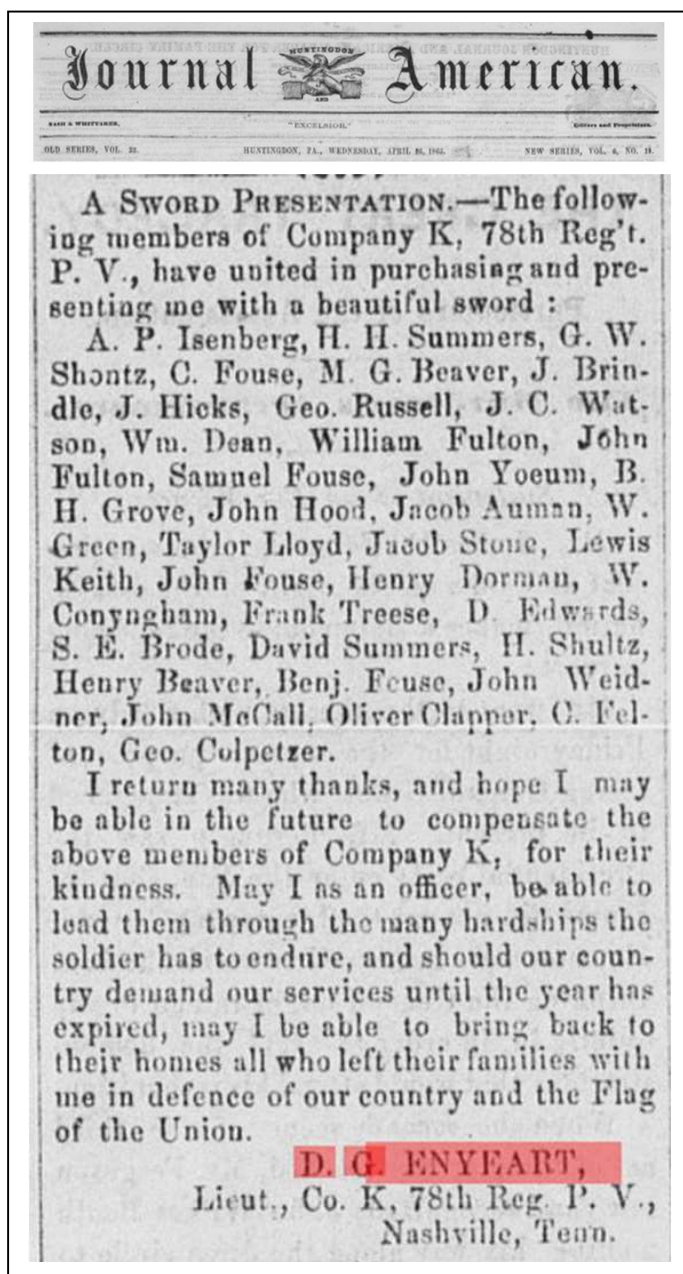
78th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment
Monument – Chickamauga National
Battlefield

Confederates. By the end of the year, the Confederate Army had been driven completely out of Tennessee.

The two companies of veterans and recruits were organized in this way until February and March of 1865, when Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania assigned eight new companies to the organization, bringing the new organization up to the minimum regimental strength. Major Bonaffon was commissioned as Colonel and the other commissioned officers were also advanced in rank. Company K was recruited in Huntingdon County, with John Brewster as Captain, Davis G. Enyeart as 1st Lieutenant and Milton H. Sangree as 2nd Lieutenant.

Davis was officially mustered in on March 8, 1865 in Harrisburg by Governor Curtis for one year's service, first as 2nd Lieutenant but was then advanced to 1st Lieutenant. Davis was likely made an officer in the new unit because he had military experience, although most of his military career had been spent in a hospital bed. It appears that Davis was involved in recruiting in Huntingdon County prior to officially joining the unit as he is credited with signing in a number of the recruits in Hollidaysburg, in February as recorded in the roll book for the 78th PVI.

Davis obviously took his responsibilities seriously and was proud to once again be serving the union cause as evidenced by this article in the April 16, 1865 Sunday edition of the Huntingdon, PA newspaper, the "Journal American." The article also demonstrates that the newly-formed Company K wasted little time in relocating to their assignment in Nashville.

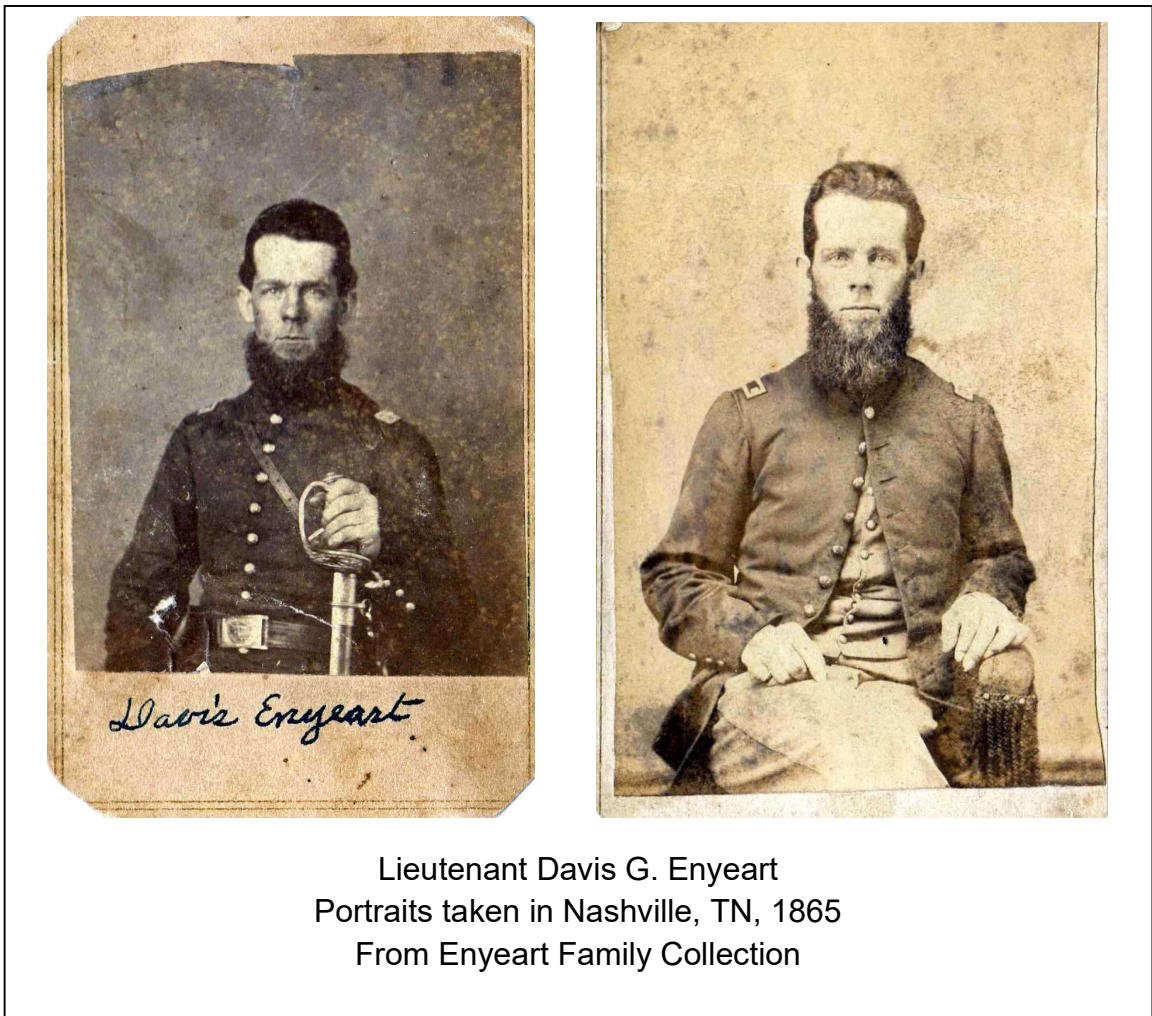


(This edition of paper was obviously printed prior to receiving word of the assassination of President Lincoln on the evening of April 14 or his death early the next morning.)

By the time the 78th Regiment had completed its second organization General Hood's Army had been driven from Tennessee, and the new Regiment did not have any opportunity for engaging in any great battle, but the Regiment performed its duty faithfully at Nashville until the close of the War, and was mustered out of the service, September 11, 1865 at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



78th P.V. Flag
(From Civilwartalk.com)



Lieutenant Davis G. Enyeart
Portraits taken in Nashville, TN, 1865
From Enyeart Family Collection

Davis returned to Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania and worked as a store clerk, a teacher, a farmer and a fisherman. Because of his medical condition due to sickness suffered during the war, he was never able to engage in physical labor. He married Martha "Mattie" Frank, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Frank, on October 18, 1866. Together they had nine children. Mattie died on July 1, 1888, when their youngest child, Flora, was four years old. Davis married Melinda Detwiler Shontz, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Detwiler and widow of William Henry Shontz, on October 25, 1891. Malinda was 29 and Davis was 54 years old. They had two children. Davis died at his home in Entriiken, Pennsylvania on June 3, 1905 at the age of 67 from heart disease, a condition resulting from disease contracted during the war. He was buried at Marklesburg Reformed Cemetery in Marklesburg, Lincoln Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.



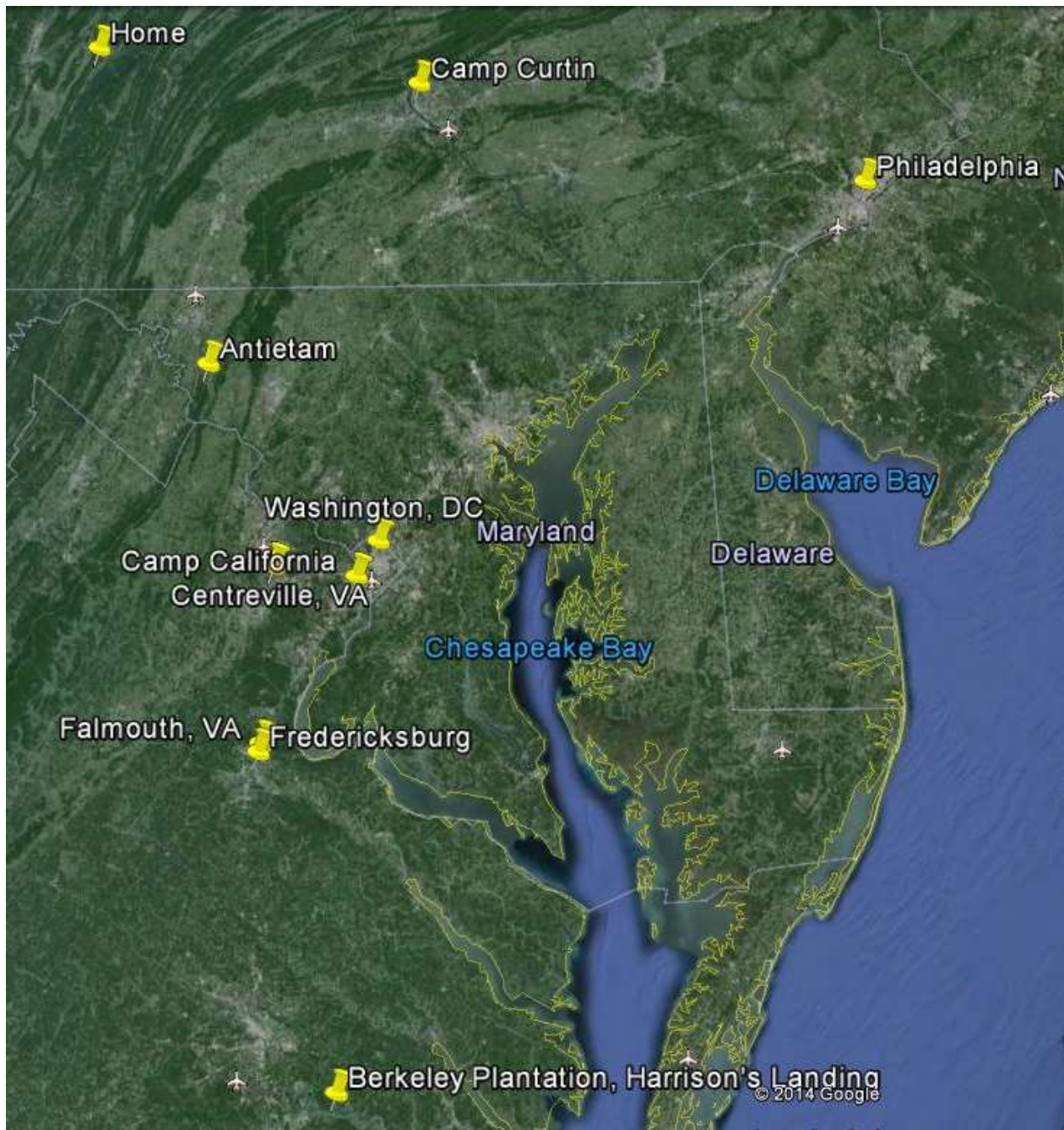
Grave Marker for Davis Enyeart



Davis's Sword

Presented to him by members of the 78th PVI in April, 1865, now residing in his great-granddaughter's basement.

~24~



Important Locations in Davis Enyeart's Military Career

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